**TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes**

 **Monday November 13, 2017   10:00 am Town Annex Bldg. Jail Hill Haddam**

 **Attachments:** Agenda 11/13/2017 and full meeting schedule 2017/18

 **Members Present:** Thurston Clark, Jackie Crysler, Marge DeBold, Sue DeCarli, Eleanor Farrell, Beth Hartke, Mary Lou Heger, Mark Lundgren, Gloria Maynard, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Rutty, Adele Vynalek, Robert Waller

**Call to Order:  By Mary Lou Heger** followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the October 2017 meeting were read, and a motion was made to accept as amended and agreed by all.

 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**MUNICIPAL AGENT Farrell** reported that she is now back to 4 day a week schedule from 9-2pm at the Annex. She assisted 38 people last month, and was able to prepare and get a substantial grant of $7,500 for a Higganum couple to remedy serious electrical and furnace problems in their home through the Rural Community Grants for people over 62. She is working on grants for two other people in town. She advises there is opportunities to get low interest loans for seniors and help for subsidized housing. The group expressed gratitude for her work here. She completed 7 energy assistance applications which when accepted, provides $300 to $500 for oil. The renter’s rebate program is in a bit of flux now owing to potential problems in the state budget as to who will pay for this, the town or state. The loss of state dollars may jeopardize allowances of up to $700 yr. for beneficiaries. She also talked about the changes in the Medicare Savings Plan from the budget, that may have significant impact of seniors enrolled and new eligibility levels may cause some to lose their medical copay assistance in the coming year. She expects to receive lots of calls for MSP assistance over the next couple of months.

**Club 60:** Mary Lou Pierce provided information about their club’s activity this past month. The Mystery Trip this year included a trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, which was reportedly enjoyed by all. Paul Lewis, an engineer with Essex Steam Train will be giving a talk on the Valley Railroad. The HK Middle school will be providing some entertainment for their holiday party. She reported that the center will be holding a holiday craft show on Sunday 12/4. There will be 17 vendors, baked goods and chowder. The group was very encouraged by this new event, and wanted to thank its organizers Paula W, Alice and Shirley. All proceeds are going to the nutrition program.

**Fundraising** discussion from last month whereby the Committee wanted to know how the Nutrition fundraising proceeds were being managed. Based on a call to the First Selectman’s office, there is a separate account controlled by Alice Z that maintains this money for exclusive use of nutritional services.

**Medical Transport**: Adele raised a concern she had regarding Senior Van medical trip assistance, during the medical leave of the principal driver. The chair and two members will be speaking with First Selectman to determine if concern is warranted and measures undertaken by the town to maintain this service.

**Emergency Preparedness:** The group discussed a concern raised by members about how High Meadows would fare in the event of another power outage. It was noted that the complex doesn’t have special designation by Eversource as “priority” even though there are disabled residents and some with special equipment. Members asked if Eleanor could check with Jessica at Social Services if residents were on the First Selectman’s list to call to determine if they needed assistance during an outage. Mark advised the group that High Meadows is considering a bid to install a generator there, and has a subcommittee in their newly enlarged Board of Directors working on this issue, at Least for a warming center at the Community Hall at High Meadows. Sue D advised that nothing is set as of today. The committee discussed the possibility of preparing an Emergency Kit for residents with some warming blankets, list of needed items such as ample water, flash lights etc. Bob noted that Connecticut Dept. of Public Health has a good booklet with such a list and he will forward a copy to members for review.

**New Business:**

**Re appointment** of Committee members; In view of the need for Board of Selectman to select membership for the COA in December. Our chair sought input from members as to whether they would be interested in serving another term. A list was prepared and will be sent to First Selectman. Also, the COA has had representation by HK Youth and Family Services through Deborah Kelley. Since her resignation, they have a Temporary Director in Charlie Macumas, someone well known in town. Beth will speak to him to determine whether the position would allow him to participate with COA given the many projects of cooperation in the past.

**Review of Committee on Aging Bylaws:** It was recommended that members re read the bylaws to determine if adjustments need to be made for next year.

**Plans for 2018 Seniors Picnic** in June; The group discussed our planning for next year. Firstly, we wanted to thank the Directors of the Haddam Neck Fair Association for offering the site, and making our event easy to plan, easy to execute and very welcoming to all the town’s seniors during this event. The Haddam Neck Fairgrounds offered the best options for Parking, Seating, weather protection, bathroom facilities, kitchen and entertainment options by far. With some help by the school bus operators, our attendance was very good, and feedback was excellent. Consensus was that we hold the 2018 picnic there again if possible. A motion was made and approved to do this, and a sub committee established to move forward. Sub Committee members for the 2018 Senior Picnic will be: Mary Lou Heger, Thurston Clark, Mary Lou Pierce and Marge DeBold. Susan Rutty will make an official request to use the HN Fairgrounds to their board.

**Annual COA report:**  will be prepared at the end of June 2018

**COA goals for 2018:** Bob asked the group to consider our work over the past year, and determine whether we wish to prepare a list of goals for 2018.

**Motion to adjourn**:Without any new business forthcoming, a motion to adjourn was made by Marge, and seconded by Beth. Members voted to adjourn at 11:15am.

**NEXT MEETING MONDAY DECEMBER 11,2017 AT THE ANNEX ON JAIL HILL RD**

 Respectfully submitted by,

Robert D Waller

Secretary COA

Approved by vote of the committee 12/11/2017, sent to Town Clerk and Selectman same day.